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PATENT
Attorney Docket No.: S-9-6

On July 3, 2003
By Michelle Nicely

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re application of:

LEWIS SHARPS et al.

Application No.: Unassigned

Filed: Herewith

For: METHODS FOR REPAIRING
DAMAGED INTERVERTEBRAL DISCS

Examiner: Unassigned

Art Unit: 3739

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

Before substantive examination, please amend the subject application as follows.

IN THE SPECIFICATION:

Please amend the first paragraph on page 1 as follows:

The present invention is a continuation of U.S. Patent Application No. 09/767,194 filed September 28, 2000 which claims priority from U.S. Provisional Application No. 60/224,107, filed August 9, 2000, and ~~which is a continuation-in-part of PCT Application No. 00/13706, filed May 17, 2000 (Attorney Docket No. S-5 PCT), which~~ also claims priority from U.S. Patent Application No. 09/316,472, filed May 21, 1999 (Attorney Docket No. S-5), which is a continuation-in-part of U.S. Patent Application No. 09/295,687, filed April 21, 1999 (Attorney Docket No. E-7-2) and U.S. Patent Application Nos. 09/054,323 and 09/268,616, filed April 2, 1998 and March 15, 1999, respectively (Attorney Docket Nos. E-5 and E-7-1, respectively), each of which are continuation-in-parts of U.S. Patent Application No. 08/990,374, filed December 15, 1997 (Attorney Docket E-3), which is a continuation-in-part of U.S. Patent Application No.